

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please replace the paragraph at page 59, beginning at line 2 and ending at line 25 with the following paragraph:

AB

An optical pickup device ~~has an irradiation optical system for focusing a light beam to form a spot on a track on an information recording surface of an optical recording medium, and a light detection optical system for leading return light reflected back from the spot to a photodetector. The optical pickup device also has~~ includes a focus error detecting optical element which splits and leads return light to a photodetector. The focus error detecting optical element has an area quadrisected into first through fourth quadrants ~~from the center of an optical path of the return path along by~~ two division lines ~~extending corresponding to a direction in which the track extends and a direction perpendicular to the extending direction on~~ defining a plane substantially perpendicular to the optical path of the return path, ~~light for applying astigmatism to the return light passing through adjacent ones of the areas on the same side of the division line with astigmatism in directions rotated by 90° from each other about the optical path, and for separating the return light into at least four corresponding to~~ by the areas respective quadrants. The photodetector has a plurality of spaced light receiving elements for receiving the separated return light, each ~~of receiving which element~~ has contour lines corresponding to the division lines on an image plane on which a light beam is shaped into a circular beam ~~in the optical system in which the astigmatism is applied, and.~~ The light receiving elements are comprised of two light receiving areas divided by a bisect line extending substantially in parallel with one of the contour lines.

**IN THE TITLE**

Please replace the Title of the invention with the following title so as to read as:

“Optical Pickup Device With Focus Error Detecting Optical Element and Method  
For Focus Error Detection”